RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

July 2010 Socio-economic Series 10-012

2001 Participation Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 6—Profile of the Housing Conditions of Canadians Aged 15 Years and Older with a Speaking/Communicating Disability

INTRODUCTION

This *Research Highlight* is one in a series of highlights that examine the housing conditions and characteristics of Canadians with disabilities. It focuses on those who report having a speaking/communicating disability. Data used in this highlight are from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001 PALS), Canada's principal national survey focusing on people with disabilities. PALS provides information on the prevalence and severity of disability, on the use of and unmet need for supports, and on participation in various everyday activities.

DEFINITIONS

Population with Disabilities Examined in this Highlight

This highlight examines the population 15 years of age and older only. The data presented here and in subsequent highlights will differ from the first issue in this series, which was based on the 2001 Census' because of some key differences between the 2001 Census, and 2001 PALS with respect to identifying people with disabilities. The 2001 PALS identifies an estimated 945,000 fewer people aged 15 years and older with a disability than did the 2001 Census. This is because some individuals who responded "Yes" to the Census disability questions responded "No" to the more detailed questions on the 2001 PALS related to specific types of di abilities. It is also due to differences in the geographic coverage—the 2001 Census includes the people living in the territories and in First Nations communities but these areas and their populations are excluded from the 2001 PALS.

Disability in the 2001 PALS

The 2001 PALS asks about specific domains of functioning in which one may experience ongoing difficulties doing activities and identifies 10 specific types of disabilities (as well as an "unknown"[1] category):

- Mobility
- Agility
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking/communicating
- Developmental
- Learning
- Memory
- Emotional/psychological
- Pain

[1] People who answer "Yes" to one of the questions on general limitations and "No" to the specific disability-type questions are classified as having "nature of disability unknown."

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The 2001 PALS includes three ways to look at disability characteristics: type(s) of disability that an individual reports, number of types of disabilities that an individual reports, and a severity measure that includes the nature and extent of the individual's disability across all the types of disabilities reported by the individual.

Speaking/Communicating Disability

In the 2001 PALS, an individual with a speaking/communicating disability is someone who has difficulty speaking and/or making her/himself understood when speaking.

Core Housing Need

Households[2] are considered to be in core housing need if they do not live in and do not have sufficient income to access acceptable housing. The term "acceptable housing" refers to housing that is in adequate physical condition, of suitable size and affordable.

- Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs.
- Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements.[3]
- Affordable dwellings cost less than 30% of before-tax household income.[4]

A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing.

When discussing core housing need, household data exclude farm, band and reserve households (for which shelter costs are not collected by the census). It also excludes households with shelter costs that equal or exceed their income, or incomes of zero or less.

FINDINGS

Persons with a Speaking/Communicating Disability Aged 15 Years and Older

Among persons with disabilities, an estimated 10.6%, or 356,300, have a speaking and/or communicating disability (see Table 1).

Table 1 Number and percent of persons aged 15 years and older living in households, by type of disability, 2001

	Number	(%)*
All types of disabilities	3,352,300	100.0%
Hearing	1,013,700	30.2%
Seeing	586,800	17.5%
Speaking/ Communicating	356,300	10.6%
Mobility/agility	2,692,800	80.3%
Pain	2,332,300	69.6%
Learning	442,000	13.2%
Memory	414,900	12.4%
Developmental	117,000	3.5%
Emotional/Psychological	517,700	15.4%
Unknown	94,400	2.8%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because people can report more than one disability.
Source: 2001 PALS

[2] Refers to all private households. People living in collective dwellings (see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Cat. No. 92-378-XIE, pages 190-193) are excluded by definition.

[3] According to the NOS, enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitation adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite-sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e., a unit with no bedroom).

[4] Shelter costs include the following:

- For renters, rent and payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services; and
- For owners, mortgage payments (principal and interest), property taxes, and any condominium fees, along with payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services. Costs associated with maintenance and repairs are not considered part of shelter costs.

Income data collected by the 2001 Census refer to the calendar year preceding the Census, while shelter cost data are for 2001.

The incidence of speaking/communicating disability varies among the ten provinces; Quebec has the highest rate at about 13% and Alberta has the lowest rate at 9% (see Table 2).

Table 2 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a speaking/communicating disability and relative to any type of disability, Canada and the provinces, 2001

Geography	Persons aged 15 years and older		% reporting a speaking/ communicating disability
	with any type of disability	with a speaking/ communicating disability	
CANADA	3,352,300	356,300	10.6%
Newfoundland and Labrador	57,500	6,400	11.1%
Prince Edward Island	17,500	1,700	9.7%
Nova Scotia	144,300	14,600	10.1%
New Brunswick	97,500	9,800	10.1%
Quebec	560,100	71,100	12.7%
Ontario	1,413,900	149,900	10.6%
Manitoba	133,400	14,700	11.0%
Saskatchewan	110,100	11,800	10.7%
Alberta	320,200	27,300	8.5%
British Columbia	497,700	49,100	9.9%

Source: 2001 PALS

Age and Gender

Persons with a speaking/communicating disability are generally younger than those reporting any type of disability, with an average age of 54 years, compared to 59 among persons reporting any type of disability. Women with a speaking/communicating disability are slightly older than men, with an average age of 60 compared to 58.

The rate of speaking/communicating disability is higher among males with disabilities than among females with disabilities (13% compared to 9%) across all age groups, with the largest difference among those aged 15 to 24 years (26% compared to 19%) (see Table 3).

The rate of speaking/communication disability generally decreases with age, except it is higher for men aged 65 years and older than for men 45-64.

Table 3 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a speaking/communicating disability and relative to any type of disability, by sex and age group, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older		% reporting a speaking/ communicating disability
		with any type of disability	with a speaking/ communicating disability	
Both sexes	15 years and older	3,352,300	356,300	10.6%
	15 - 24 years	148,000	33,200	22.4%
	25 - 44 years	618,300	91,300	14.8%
	45 - 64 years	1,162,700	110,700	9.5%
	65 years and older	1,423,200	121,200	8.5%
Male	15 years and older	1,487,800	187,000	12.6%
	15 - 24 years	73,000	19,300	26.4%
	25 - 44 years	283,900	47,700	16.8%
	45 - 64 years	541,400	52,300	9.7%
	65 years and older	589,500	67,700	11.5%
Female	15 years and older	1,864,500	169,300	9.1%
	15 - 24 years	75,000	13,900	18.5%
	25 - 44 years	334,400	43,500	13.0%
	45 - 64 years	621,300	58,300	9.4%
	65 years and older	833,700	53,500	6.4%

Source: 2001 PALS

Severity of Disability

About 83% of persons who report having a speaking/communicating disability have a severe or very severe disability, compared to 41% of persons reporting any type of disability.

When these data are examined by age, the largest difference occurs among persons aged 15 to 24 years. In this young age group, 69% of persons who report having a speaking/communicating disability are classified as having a severe or very severe disability, compared to 30% of those with any type of disability.

Housing Characteristics of Persons with a Speaking/Communicating Disability who are living in a Household in Core Housing Need

At the Canada level, 18% of persons aged 15 years and older who report having a speaking/communicating disability live in a household in core housing need, about double the incidence of people without disabilities (at 9%) (see Table 5). The rate varies among the ten provinces, with the lowest incidence in New Brunswick at 13% and the highest in British Columbia at 25%.

Table 4 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a speaking/communicating or any type of disability, by severity of disability, 2001

Severity of disability	Persons aged 15 years and older			
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total	3,352,300	100.0%	356,300	100.0%
Mild	1,134,800	33.9%	15,600	4.4%
Moderate	838,800	25.0%	46,600	13.1%
Severe	903,500	27.0%	112,100	31.5%
Very severe	475,100	14.2%	182,000	51.1%
Source: 2001 PALS				

Urban/Rural

For persons with a speaking/communicating disability, the incidence of living in a household in core housing need is about 20% in urban areas and 13% in rural areas.

Tenure

More than one-third (34%) of persons with a speaking/communicating disability who live in rental households are

Table 5 Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need, by disability status, Canada and the provinces, 2001

Geography	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada	563,900	16.8%	65,400	18.4%	1,757,000	9.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,700	18.5%	900	14.1%	35,900	10.3%
Prince Edward Island	2,500	14.5%	400	23.5%	6,600	7.8%
Nova Scotia	25,100	17.4%	3,300	22.6%	55,000	9.6%
New Brunswick	11,700	12.0%	1,300	13.3%	31,800	6.7%
Quebec	89,200	15.9%	9,200	12.9%	376,300	7.4%
Ontario	247,800	17.5%	29,200	19.5%	772,900	10.5%
Manitoba	17,300	13.0%	2,700	18.4%	40,600	6.6%
Saskatchewan	12,400	11.3%	2,100	17.8%	31,100	6.4%
Alberta	45,100	14.1%	4,000	14.7%	124,800	7.1%
British Columbia	102,000	20.5%	12,300	25.1%	282,100	11.2%
Source: 2001 PALS						

Table 6 Number and percent of persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and tenure, 2001

Tenure	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	16.8%	65,400	18.4%	1,757,000	9.1%
Owned by a member of the family	202,300	8.9%	20,300	9.0%	673,500	4.8%
Rented	361,600	33.6%	45,100	34.2%	1,083,400	21.1%
Source: 2001 PALS						

in core housing need, compared to 9% of persons with this disability who live in a dwelling owned by a member of the family (see Table 6). Persons with a speaking/communicating disability are more likely to be in a household in core housing need than persons without disabilities (34%, compared to 21% for tenants, and 9%, compared to 4.8% for owners).

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Persons Aged 15 Years and Older with a Speaking/Communicating Disability that Live in a Household in Core Housing Need

Age and Gender

There are slightly more males with a speaking/communicating disability that live in a household in core housing need than females (51% compared to 49%). This is different than for those in core housing need who report any type of disability (38% male; 62% female) and who are without disabilities (42% male; 58% female).

For individuals living in a household in core housing need, 8% of persons with a speaking/communicating disability are aged 15 to 24 years, compared to 5% among persons with any type of disability and 22% among persons without disabilities (see Table 7).

Males who report having a speaking/communicating disability and who are living in a household in core need are likely to be younger than females: 43% of such males are younger than 45, compared to 37% of the females.

Table 7 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status, sex and age group, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
		with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
		(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Both sexes	15 years and older	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
	15 to 24	26,500	4.7%	5,500	8.4%	386,100	22.0%
	25 to 44	120,700	21.4%	20,800	31.8%	755,200	43.0%
	45 to 64	199,200	35.3%	20,400	31.2%	402,000	22.9%
	65 and older	217,500	38.6%	18,700	28.6%	213,700	12.2%
Males	15 years and older	211,800	100.0%	33,400	100.0%	745,100	100.0%
	15 to 24	11,500	5.4%	3,300	9.9%	182,200	24.5%
	25 to 44	51,900	24.5%	11,200	33.5%	317,200	42.6%
	45 to 64	90,300	42.6%	9,400	28.1%	181,200	24.3%
	65 and older	58,100	27.4%	9,700	29.0%	64,600	8.7%
Females	15 years and older	352,000	100.0%	32,000	100.0%	1,011,800	100.0%
	15 to 24	15,100	4.3%	2,300	7.2%	204,000	20.2%
	25 to 44	68,700	19.5%	9,600	30.0%	438,000	43.3%
	45 to 64	108,900	30.9%	11,000	34.4%	220,800	21.8%
	65 and older	159,400	45.3%	9,100	28.4%	149,100	14.7%
Source: 2001 PALS							

Table 8 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and living arrangements, 2001

Living arrangements	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
All types of living arrangements	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
Living alone	261,900	46.4%	23,900	36.5%	370,300	21.1%
Non family person, living with others	38,500	6.8%	4,400	6.7%	125,800	7.2%
Lone parent family	89,300	15.8%	11,500	17.6%	407,400	23.2%
Family without children	103,200	18.3%	14,600	22.3%	241,000	13.7%
Family with children	70,900	12.6%	10,900	16.7%	612,300	34.8%
Source: 2001 PALS						

Living Arrangements

Persons with a speaking/communicating disability that live in a household in core housing need are more likely to live alone (at 37%) or in a family without children (at 22%) than individuals without disabilities who live in a household in core housing need (at 21% and 14%, respectively) (see Table 8).

Immigrant Status

Among persons aged 15 and older with a speaking/ communicating disability living in a household in core housing need, 24% are immigrants, compared to 37% of persons without disabilities (see Table 9).

Table 9 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and immigrant status, 2001

Immigrant status	Persons aged 15 and older that live in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
Non-immigrant	426,500	75.6%	49,600	75.8%	1,106,900	63.0%
Immigrant	137,400	24.4%	15,900	24.2%	650,100	37.0%
Source: 2001 PALS						

Household Income

For the purpose of this analysis, the pre-tax household income of Canadian households with at least one person aged 15 years and older was assessed and divided into five equally sized income groups or quintiles ranging from low-income to high-income.

High Income:	$96,936 or more
Upper Income:	$67,812 - 96,935
Middle Income:	$46,896 - $67,811
Moderate Income:	$27,418 - $46,895
Low Income:	Less than $27,417

Regardless of disability status, the great majority of persons who are living in a household in core housing need have low incomes: 88% of persons with a speaking/communicating disability are in households in the lowest income quintile, compared to 77% of those without disabilities (see text box and Table 10).

Table 10 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and household income quintile, 2001

Household Income - Quintiles	Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without a disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
High, Upper, Middle ($46,896 or more)	*	*	0	0	27,200	1.5%
Moderate ($27,418-$46,895)	59,000	10.5%	7,800	11.9%	383,100	21.8%
Low (less than $27,417)	501,500	88.9%	57,600	88.1%	1,346,600	76.6%

* Number suppressed because of sample size.
Source: 2001 PALS

Sources of Personal Income

Only 14% of persons aged 15 and older with a speaking/ communicating disability who live in a household in core housing need report wages and salaries as a source of personal income, compared to almost half (48%) of persons without disabilities.

Most households in core housing need report some income from government sources (including Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, benefits from Employment Insurance, and other income from government sources such as provincial income supplements and welfare payments). About 85% of people with a speaking/communicating disability that live in a household in core housing need have income from government sources, compared to 82% of persons without disabilities that live in a household in core need (see Table 11).

Table 11 Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need, by disability status and sources of personal income, 2001

Sources of personal income	Persons aged 15 years and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)**	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%	1,757,700	100.0%
Wages and salaries	93,800	16.6%	9,000	13.8%	843,100	48.0%
Income from self-employment	20,500	3.6%	*	*	128,400	7.3%
Income from Government	532,300	94.4%	55,600	85.0%	1,434,500	81.6%
Other income, such as retirement pensions, dividends and interest on bonds, deposits and savings, alimony, child support, scholarships, etc.	28,500	5.1%	2,800	4.3%	121,100	6.9%

* Number suppressed because of sample size.
** Percentages add to more than 100 because people can report more than one source of income.
Source: 2001 PALS

Table 12 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and highest level of education, 2001

Highest level of education	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
Less than high school graduation	301,700	53.5%	37,800	57.8%	708,000	40.3%
Secondary school graduation certificate	68,100	12.1%	6,000	9.2%	247,400	14.1%
Trades certificate or diploma or other non-university	136,400	24.2%	14,300	21.9%	432,200	24.6%
University, with or without degree	57,600	10.2%	7,400	11.3%	369,400	21.0%
Source: 2001 PALS						

Level of Education

People with a speaking/communicating disability that live in a household in core housing need are less likely to have completed high school and less likely to have gone to university than persons without disabilities.

Among persons who live in a household in core housing need, 58% of those with a speaking/communicating disability have not completed high school, compared to 40% of persons without disabilities (see Table 12). Only 11% of persons with a speaking/communicating disability living in a household in core housing need report some university education, compared to 21% of persons without disabilities.

Health Status

More than half (55%) of persons with a speaking/ communicating disability living in a household in core housing need consider their general health status to be fair or poor, compared to 48% of people with any type of disability (see Table 13).

Table 13 Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need, by type of disability and general health status, 2001

General health status	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need			
	with any type of disability		with a speaking/ communicating disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	65,400	100.0%
Excellent	21,300	3.8%	3,100	4.7%
Very good	92,000	16.3%	5,800	8.9%
Good	157,100	27.9%	15,900	24.3%
Fair	174,300	30.9%	19,100	29.2%
Poor	95,400	16.9%	16,800	25.7%
Not stated, refusal or don't know	23,900	4.2%	4,700	7.2%
Source: 2001 PALS				

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Persons Aged 15 and Older with a Speaking/ Communicating Disability

General Characteristics

- About 11% of Canadians with disabilities aged 15 years and older have a speaking/communicating disability; the proportion varies among the ten provinces, with Quebec the highest at 13% and Alberta the lowest at 9%.
- Males with disabilities are more likely to report a speaking/communicating disability than females (13% compared to 9%).

Persons Aged 15 and Older with a Speaking/ Communicating Disability Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Housing Characteristics

- About 18% of persons aged 15 years and older with a speaking/communicating disability live in a household in core housing need, about double the incidence of people without disabilities (at 9%). This proportion varies considerably among the provinces, with the lowest in New Brunswick at 13% and the highest in British Columbia at 25%.
- The proportion of persons with a speaking/ communicating disability who are living in a household in core housing need in rented housing is higher than among persons without disabilities (34% compared to 21%).
- For those living in housing that is owned, persons reporting a speaking/communicating disability are more likely to be living in a household in core housing need than persons without disabilities (9% compared to 5%).

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

- Males who report having a speaking/communicating disability and who are living in a household in core need are likely to be younger than females: 43% of such males are younger than 45, compared to 37% of the females.
- 37% of those with a speaking/communicating disability that live in a household in core housing need live alone, compared to 21% of those without disabilities.
- 24% of persons aged 15 and older with a speaking/ communicating disability are immigrants, compared to 37% of persons without disabilities.
- 88% of persons aged 15 and older who have a speaking/ communicating disability and who live in a household in core need had a household before-tax income in the lowest income quintile (less than $27,417).
- Among persons living in a household in core housing need, 58% of those with a speaking/communicating disability have not completed high school, compared to 40% of those without disabilities.
- More than half (55%) of persons with a speaking/ communicating disability who are living in a household in core housing need consider their general health status to be fair or poor.

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